

The amateur focus: tribute to early photography buffs

For more than a century, the most important photography in Canada was the work of non-professionals. A historic exhibition now running at the Public Archives of Canada in Ottawa celebrates the achievement of this band of amateur photographers.

The exhibition, called *Private Realms of Light: Canadian Amateur Photography, 1839-1940*, was opened by the renowned Canadian photographer Yousuf Karsh. It features almost 200 photographs from the earliest wet-plates to experimentation with colour. For many of the 71 photographers, it is their first public recognition; for others, only another in a string of exhibitions which salute their talent.

"This exhibition explodes the myth of the amateur as bumbler," says Lilly Koltun, co-ordinator of the exhibit. "Amateurs were the first Canadians to try photography, the first to take snapshots, the first to regard photography as a purely artistic medium, the first to expand into colour or 35-mm camera work. They often led the professionals and surpassed them in technical excellence, even as they admired them."

The exhibition will be open until mid-October 1983, then will travel to various centres across Canada during 1984.



The Rose (1920) by amateur photographer Sidney Carter. For more than a century, the most important photography was produced by non-professionals.



Idle Moments (1926), a silver bromide print, by J.K. Hodges.

World prize honours McLuhan

The Canadian Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and Teleglobe Canada have announced the creation of a new international prize in the field of communications. Called the McLuhan Teleglobe Canada Award, the prize will honour the well-known communications philosopher, the late Herbert Marshall McLuhan.

Marshall McLuhan, born in Edmonton in 1911, was educated at the University of Manitoba and at Cambridge University, England, where he received a doctorate in English literature. As a professor at the University of Toronto from 1946 to 1967, he won world-wide recognition for such books as *The Gutenberg Galaxy* in which he analyzed the explosion in communications following the invention of the movable type press, and *Understanding Media*, an exploration into mass communications.

The McLuhan Award will be presented every two years to individuals or groups who have contributed to a better understanding of the influence of communications technology on society.

It will be open to people of all nationalities, and will consist of a commemorative medal and a cash award of \$50 000.

Exhibits travel to Peking

More than 50 working exhibits, together with workshops and demonstrations drawn from Toronto's Ontario Science Centre will travel to Peking in October.

The exhibition, *China: 7 000 Years of Discovery*, was organized in 1981 by Dr. J. Tuzo Wilson, director general of the Science Centre, and Wang Shuntong, vice-chairman of the China Association for Science and Technology. At that time, an agreement also was made to bring it to the Ontario Science Centre.

The Chinese share of the gate receipts from the Toronto exhibition, which began last summer and ended September 15, are being used to purchase more than 50 exhibits from the Science Centre.

Science Centre employees will staff the month-long exhibition and train Chinese hosts. The exhibition will then be integrated into the new Chinese Science and Technology Palace under development in Peking.